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I wish the people of Nokomis my heartfelt best as they celebrate their sesquicentennial.

TRIBUTE TO PRESIDENT TEX
HALL, NATIONAL CONGRESS OF
AMERICAN INDIANS

HON. NICK J. RAHALL II

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 15, 2005

Mr. RAHALL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a person who I consider not only a leader in Indian Country, but a friend, Tex Hall, for all of his hard work as President of the National Congress of American Indians (NCAI). Tex Hall is a man who has led by example, dedicating himself to advancing the standard of living for our Nation's first citizens through bold vision, dedication, and integrity. A tireless advocate, Tex has used his position as NCAI president to promote strong tribal sovereignty through self-governance. He has addressed both the challenges and opportunities that lie before today's American Indian and Alaska Native nations.

As Tex stated earlier this year in his State of Indian Nations address, tribes are "A vital part of this country's conscience, its past and its future . . . Strong, healthy tribal self-governance is not just good for the economy of tribal nations, but for the economy of the United States as a whole . . . Today, Indian Country is moving forward and in the right direction."

For Tex Hall, 2005 marks the end of four outstanding years as head of the National Congress of American Indians, the Nation's oldest and largest Native American organization, representing over 200 Indian tribes in the continental United States and Alaska. Tex's successful 2001 election marked the first time in history that an individual from his tribe, or from the state of North Dakota, had been chosen to lead NCAI. Tex has played a key role in the great strides that Indian country has made, keeping promises, and making a difference in the lives of Indian people—for generations to come.

Tex G. Hall—whose Indian name "Ihbudah Hishi" means "Red Tipped Arrow"—grew up on his family's cattle ranch in Mandaree, located in the heart of the Mandan, Hidatsa and Arikara Nation in North Dakota. One of eight children, Tex and his three brothers and four sisters were instilled with a deep respect and appreciation for education. In the mid-1970's, Tex received his high school diploma at a time when fewer than 40 percent of the Nation's Native Americans were graduating from high school. Persistent in his educational quest, Tex attained his bachelors degree—in an era when only 8 percent of his fellow Native Americans graduated from college—and proceeded to obtain a Masters degree in educational administration.

Tex wished to instill the importance of education in the Indian youth of his reservation. For 11 years, Tex served as the Superintendent and Principal of Mandaree School. Both his classroom instruction and basketball coaching earned Tex 1995's award of North Dakota Indian Educator of the Year. To this day, Tex lives and learns by example—he is

currently pursuing a Ph.D. degree in education.

As a committed leader, Tex followed in the footsteps of both his father and grandfather, winning a seat on the Tribal Council of the Three Affiliated Tribes (comprised of the Mandan, Hidatsa and Arikara tribes, having joined together in the mid-1800's) at Fort Berthold in New Town, North Dakota. Eventually becoming the Chairman of his tribe—exactly 40 years after his grandfather was elected Chairman—Tex has served two terms, winning re-election in 2002. Among other positions, Tex has served as Secretary and Treasurer of the United Tribes Technical College, Chairman of the Great Plains Tribal Chairmen's Association, Chairman of the Native American Bank Corporation, Co-Chairman of the National Tribal Leaders Task Force on Trust Reform, and President of the NCAI President's Health Technology Task Force.

As president of NCAI, Tex successfully worked to ensure that the government-to-government relationship and consultation was strictly adhered to on all important matters. As Co-chair of the Task Force on Indian Trust Funds, he brought together representatives of all tribes together with the Department of Interior to work through problems with trust fund management. He is truly a uniter and not a divider as he has managed to work with Indian country to consolidate and unite on like matters.

Tex has also worked with me in my capacity as the Ranking Democrat on the Resources Committee on legislation to protect Indian sacred sites from being destroyed by human abuse. We worked together on drafting the Native American Sacred Lands Act and Tex stood shoulder to shoulder with me as we announced the introduction of this important legislation. Though we have not been able to enact this bill as of yet, I know Tex will continue to fight with me to protect the rights and the sites that our first Americans hold sacred.

Tex Hall has been a major force in several advancements made by tribal governments on a national level. In 1999, Tex chaired a meeting on Indian treaty issues with President Clinton and representatives of the Great Plains Tribes. In 2000, as a result of that meeting and others, President Clinton signed an Executive Order on Consultation with Indian Tribal Governments, stating, "There is nothing more important in federal-tribal relations than fostering true government-to-government relations to empower American Indians and Alaska Natives to improve their own lives, the lives of their children, and the generations to come. We must continue to engage in a partnership, so that the First Americans can reach their full potential. . . . This Executive Order builds on prior actions and strengthens our government-to-government relationship with Indian tribes."

Multiple hurdles still obstruct elevation of the standard of living for Indian people. As Tex told Judy Sarashon of the Washington Post in 2004, "Unfortunately, the first Americans have been the forgotten Americans." Nevertheless, Tex Hall is a man who continues to dedicate his life to advancing the opportunities for Indian Country; an assiduous champion in the fight to protect Indian sacred sites, I have had the honor to work with Tex and hope to successfully pass legislation that addresses the protection of Native American sacred lands.

Whether it is his work strengthening the Violence Against Women Act, tackling the fight to

protect sacred sites, or his willingness to travel wherever needed to help work out a problem, Tex Hall will be remembered as a great president of the National Congress of American Indians; and I am proud to call him my friend. Tex, thank you for your service.

INFLUENZA VACCINE REQUIRES
SHOTS

HON. C.A. DUTCH RUPPERSBERGER

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 15, 2005

Mr. RUPPERSBERGER. Mr. Speaker, I support the Administration's plans for combating an Influenza Pandemic, including measures to increase the capacity of the vaccine industry so that we have enough influenza vaccine to protect all Americans within 6 months of an outbreak.

However, you can't drink the Influenza vaccine, it has to be delivered with a syringe or other delivery technology, but the Administration's plan does not include any strategies for acquiring sufficient numbers of appropriate injection devices to deliver the vaccine.

The influenza vaccine will probably require 2 shots, which means that we will need 600 million syringes to vaccinate every American.

Without advance planning and stockpiling of injection devices, hospitals and public health agencies will not have sufficient numbers of injection devices to deliver the pandemic influenza vaccine. In fact, without planning and utilizing devices that are designed to ensure the vaccine is used to its full potential, we may waste the very vaccine we are working so hard to acquire.

The Administration has worked diligently with vaccine manufacturers to ensure there is additional capacity to produce pandemic influenza vaccines. The same planning and co-operation must happen with the domestic device industry. I urge the Administration to sit-down with the medical device industry to discuss potential medical device needs and capacity constraints and develop a plan to ensure we are acquiring the appropriate amount and type of syringes necessary to keep all Americans safe. It would be a tragedy to waste life saving vaccine because of a lack of foresight.

RECOGNIZING STEPHEN A. PERRY

HON. RALPH REGULA

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 15, 2005

Mr. REGULA. Mr. Speaker, I wish to congratulate my constituent, Stephen A. Perry, for his service to his country as the 17th administrator of the U.S. General Services Administration (GSA). The Buckeye State is proud of Steve as one of the highest ranking Ohioans serving in the Bush administration.

As administrator, Steve brought an extensive background from both the private sector and State government. He has effectively led the GSA during a period where the Federal Government's infrastructure has been aging, but funds have been limited to deal with all these problems. However, Steve guided GSA